



Protecting Our Heritage

Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Program

<http://www.fema.gov/ehp/>

FEMA's Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Program integrates historic preservation considerations into FEMA's mission of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. During disaster recovery operations, the agency assesses damages to historic and cultural resources, provides technical assistance to States and local jurisdictions, and ensures compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations, such as the National Historic Preservation Act.

Supporting State and local governments

FEMA is working with State and local governments to provide historic preservation expertise to local teams assessing the structural integrity of buildings damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Historic preservation specialists are also evaluating the eligibility of buildings and neighborhoods for the National Register of Historic Places.

FEMA is providing technical assistance to State and local governments on historic preservation issues, and collaborating with Indian tribes to address any unique cultural concerns they may have.

In addition, FEMA is a founding member of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, and is working with Task Force members to identify needs and available technical assistance and resources for salvaging and protecting historic properties and cultural collections. The Task Force was formed in 1995 to help libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and historic sites protect their collections and buildings from natural disasters. The Task Force is working with partner organizations and distributing materials on historic preservation throughout the disaster area. For more information, visit, <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/taskfer.htm>.

Restoration assistance available

FEMA's Public Assistance program provides funding for the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain non-profit (PNP) organizations. The program includes funding for the restoration of collections and items of "exceptionally significant cultural value" located within or on public or private non-profit property. The Federal share is at least 75 percent of the cost. In addition, the Small Business Administration provides low-interest loans for home repairs.

For more information about funding assistance, see "Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions" on the Web at <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PDFS/Disaster.pdf>. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is another resource. Its Web site is <http://www.nthp.org>.

FEMA Specialists Deployed to Affected States

FEMA has deployed historic preservation specialists to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to focus on historic preservation considerations. The specialists are identifying historic preservation issues, assessing damages, providing technical assistance, and fulfilling FEMA's legal responsibilities under various historic preservation laws, executive orders, and regulations.